(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) It is difficult to make exact comparison of prices of International Private Leased Circuit (IPLC) between India and other countries. Reports received from the user groups indicate that the leased rentals (Tariff) in India for IPLC (HalfCircuit) are higher than those prevalent in more competitive markets. The prices of IPLC depend upon many factors such as availability of various submarine cables, Satellite Bandwidth, Spare Capacity, distance between the two destinations etc.

(c) and (d) Under conditions of competition, markets determine the price and hence it is not possible to predict the extent of changes.

New Policy for Internet

2254 SHRIMATI. S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had announced a new policy for the internet;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering on the concept of providing domain names in local languages on the lines of similar systems in China and Taiwan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNCIATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The Government has announced a new policy for IN Internet Domain Name Registration.

(b) The policy envisages to make IN Domain Name Registration system open, efficient and market friendly to make it popular and realize larger presence in the internet space. Some of the main features of the new policy are opening of the registration at 2nd and 3rd levels, domain name registration through a channel of Registrar, wholesale domain price for 2nd and 3rd level Rs. 500 and Rs. 250 respectively, a limited sunrise period, a dispute resolution mechanism etc.

(c) and (d) Providing domain name in local languages in a complex process involving research and application.

Overcharging of rent in Gautam Budha Nagar

†2255. SHRI VEER SINGH. Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is charging monthly rent which is applicable to urban areas from all the 123 villages of Gautam Budha Nagar, instead of Rs. 120/- per month which is applicable to rural areas though the same have been declared as rural areas;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the General Manager Telephone had made announcement regarding recovering Rs. 120/- as rent from the rural subscribers and the rent of two months had also been recovered at this rate; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. As per the present tariff policy, rural subscribers are charged rural tariffs based on the total capacity of telephone system to which they are conneted. Accordingly, the rural subscribers of Gautam Budha Nagar (as per Census Report 2001) are being charged rural rental which varies from Rs. 110/- to Rs. 210/- per month depending upon the capacity of telephone system to which they are connected.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The announcement by General Manager, Noida pertains to options for rural subscribers to avail economy plan of BSNL with Rs. 150/- per month rental and 150 free calls.

Cheaper ISD calls

2256. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the ISD facilitators are providing cheapest international call to Europe, America, Singapore etc. at Rs. 4 to 5 per minute to the consumers;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.